

FACT SHEET



MOAB UMTRA Project

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management in Grand Junction, Colorado, manages the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project. This fact sheet describes some interim soils remediation activities associated with this project that will occur in summer 2006.

Remediation Along U.S. Highway 191 Rights-of-Way and on National Park Service Land

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing to clean up the 16-million-ton uranium mill tailings pile located 3 miles northwest of the city of Moab in Grand County, Utah. This remediation project involves relocating the tailings and other contaminated materials 30 miles north to a permanent disposal site in Crescent Junction, Utah. The project also includes cleanup of contaminated ground water and cleanup and reclamation of the millsite property and certain off-site properties known as vicinity properties.

Highway 191 Rights-of-Way

A portion of U.S. Highway 191 is within the DOE site property boundary. The rights-of-way on the north and south sides of the highway have radiologically contaminated soil to a depth of approximately 6 to 12 inches, mostly from wind-blown contamination. Parts of the highway rights-of-way were cleaned up in 2003 when the Utah Department of Transportation made improvements to the highway.

DOE plans to remediate the remaining contaminated portions of the highway rights-of-way within the site boundary beginning mid-June. The Highway 191 remediation area is a 200-foot right-of-way paralleling the northern boundary of the site that spans 39 acres. Approximately 28,700 cubic yards of contaminated soils will be removed from the 21 acres that require remediation. Figure 1 shows the areas to be remediated.

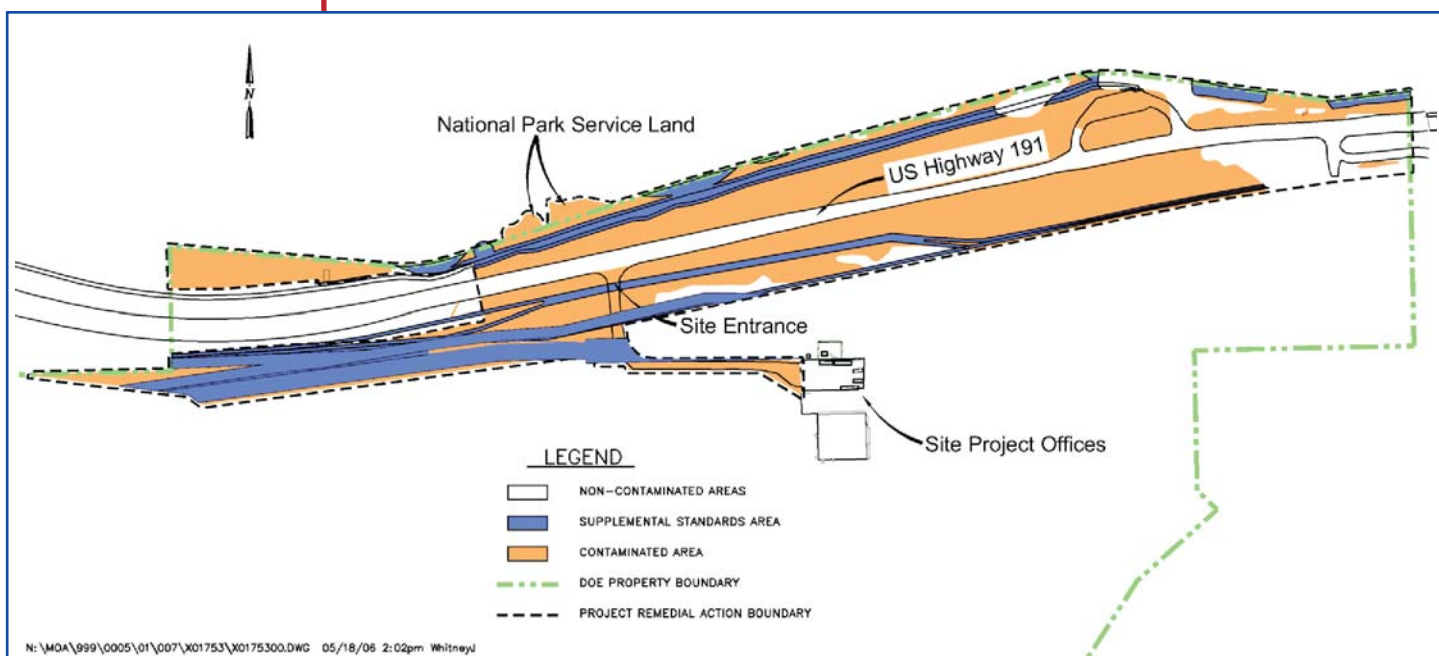


Figure 1. Highway 191 Rights-of-Way and National Park Service Land Remediation Areas



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Temporary fencing will be constructed along the right-of-way on each side of the highway and will remain in place until backfilling to final grades is complete and equipment has been removed from the area. Construction activities will start on the eastern portion of the area and work west and will be performed to minimize obstructions to traffic flow along those sections of the highway.

DOE is working in cooperation with the Utah Department of Transportation to prepare a traffic control plan and to ensure that the backfill material is properly compacted adjacent to the highway. Excavated materials will be loaded onto trucks and hauled to the top of the mill tailings pile for disposal. Trucks will be covered to prevent dust from blowing off the trucks. Other dust control measures will be used in the remediation area. Radiologic monitoring of the excavated surface will determine when sufficient material has been removed. The rights-of-way will be cleaned up according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards as defined in Title 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 192.

Several supplemental standards areas exist within the remediation boundary. Contamination in these areas will be left in place because they are utility rights-of-way or sites of historical significance, such as the old highway bike path and archeologically sensitive areas. Contamination in utility rights-of-way is usually cleaned up only when the utility company has to repair or replace a line so the area is only disturbed once. For the areas of historical significance, the health risks associated with the contamination are minimal compared to the cost of remediation and potential damage to the historical sites.

National Park Service Land

The National Park Service owns the property north of the northern DOE project site boundary. The entrance to Arches National Park is located less than 1 mile northwest of the site. Two small National Park Service parcels (Figure 1), north of the U.S. Highway 191 right-of-way, have contamination on the surface soil and will be cleaned up during remediation of the highway rights-of-way. Concurrent remediation of these areas prevents the possibility of contaminating previously cleaned areas. The contaminated areas total 0.4 acre, with contamination estimated to extend 6 inches below the ground surface. Approximately 322 cubic yards of contaminated material will be removed.

Reclamation and Timing

Areas disturbed during the remediation will be backfilled and reseeded with native species or otherwise returned to pre-remediation conditions. Remediation and reconstruction of both the National Park Service parcels and highway rights-of-way are anticipated to be complete by mid-August.

Contact Information

For more information about the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project, please visit our website at <http://gj.em.doe.gov/moab>. You may also call our toll-free hotline at 1-800-637-4575 or email us at moabcomments@gjo.doe.gov. If you have concerns regarding the remediation work addressed in this fact sheet, please contact Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director, at 970-248-7612.